



**Date:** September 24, 2004  
**To:** Gerald R. Miller, City Manager  
**From:** Carl Kemp, Manager, Public/Governmental Affairs  
**For:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**Subject:** City Report: Weekly Update For Week Ending September 24, 2004

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The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending September 24, 2004 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

**MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS**

**West Nile Virus Update: Health and Human Services**

Long Beach has documented no new human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) in the past week. The cumulative city total this year remains at nine cases, one death, one is currently hospitalized and the other individuals are recovering at home.

In order to continue to combat this mosquito-borne virus, DHHS' Vector Control Program has added 15 new sites for spraying, resulting in over 300 miles of residential gutters sprayed in the city every seven to ten days. Over 50 new complaints of locations of standing water have been investigated, and as required, have been treated to prevent mosquito growth. If warranted, these sites will be treated in accordance with the above noted schedule through the duration of the mosquito season.

The Public Health Laboratory conducted 28 new WNV confirmatory tests. To date, DHHS' laboratory has conducted over 321 WNV tests.

Over 50 additional homes have had WNV educational information personally delivered by Environmental Health Bureau staff, resulting in over 1,242 homes receiving this information since July 2004.

**Fire**

The Long Beach Fire Department celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> *Rescue Youth Program* graduation with 15 youth on September 20 at Universal Studios. The program, possible through a partnership between the Los Angeles County, Montebello and Long Beach Fire Departments, and the District Attorney's office, targets "at-risk" youth and matches them with a mentoring firefighter in their neighborhood. Long Beach Firefighters worked with two referred youth in the first year, with the number growing to 15 this year. The firefighters teach youth responsibility, character building, general life skills, and firefighting skills as well as helping them with their homework.

## **MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)**

### **Community Recreation Services Bureau**

El Dorado Nature Center coordinated more than 1,500 volunteers at nine sites in Long Beach as part of the 20th Annual International Coastal Cleanup on September 18. The volunteers picked up more than 4,100 pounds of debris, and of that amount, only 300 lbs was recyclable. The community minded volunteers learned that most of the pollution that ends up on our shores comes from inland yards and streets that connect to the ocean via storm drains and our channelized rivers. The Long Beach Airport Community Outreach team participated.

### **Library Services**

Thirteen families and thirty-three children graduated from the Seventh Street Community Police Center's *Raising A Reader* program on Wednesday, September 22. The program is a partnership between the Library, the Library Foundation, and community organizations with the goals of creating family reading time in the home, maintaining connections between families and the public library and preparing preschoolers for reading at schools.

## **AWARDS**

### **Community Development, Workforce Development Bureau**

The Career Transition Center, in partnership with the Long Beach Unified School District, was notified this week of its selection by the California Department of Education for a Family Literacy grant for \$172,500 to serve thirty families with a variety of literacy, parenting and family development activities.

### **Harbor Department**

The Port of Long Beach was awarded a \$1.4 million security grant by The U.S. Department of Homeland Security to pay for additional surveillance video camera equipment. Over 1,100 applications for this program were received this year; the Department selected 154 ports across the nation for funding. Fourteen ports in California received funding, totaling \$5.9 million.

### **Public Works, Airport**

On September 15 at Long Beach Airport, the Saturn Relay Lightship established a new world-class flight duration record for Class B non-rigid helium airships. It flew for 24 hours, 40 minutes, and 55 seconds, landing at 11:10 p.m. The previous record of 14 hours and 9 minutes was established in 1998 in White Plains, NY. This demonstration of long endurance emphasizes the ability of the airships to fulfill a number of roles including persistent airborne surveillance. Counter insurgency, pipeline protection, border patrol, ports and harbor security, airborne law enforcement and protection of key facilities.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS**

### **Harbor Department**

More than 1,000 delegates from North and South America, their guests and exhibitors will attend the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the American Association of Port Authorities on **September 26-30** at the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center. The convention is expected to bring \$2.2 million in economic benefits to the city and region including revenue from nearly 4,000 hotel room-nights, restaurants and catering services for the conference's luncheons and night-time events. The business sessions will include programs on community relations, environmental concerns and security.

### **Health and Human Services**

Staff will present West Nile Virus information to community groups at the Martin Luther King Park on **September 29**.

### **Community Development and Health and Human Services**

The Neighborhood Resource Center will host a *Meet the Director* Workshop featuring Ron Arias, Health and Human Services Director. The workshop will be held on **September 30** from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Arias will discuss Department activities and residents will have the opportunity to ask questions and share ideas with the Director.

### **Health and Human Services**

The Workforce Development Task Force will be sponsoring a Career Day, *Building a Stronger Public Health Workforce*, on **September 28** from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Career Day will provide staff with the opportunity to learn about career enhancement, continuing education, professions in public health, and career growth.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **Fire**

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,358 emergency calls for service: 116 were calls for fires with 16 involving structures. It also responded to 724 emergency medical calls, 502 requiring paramedics.

### **Police Department**

Officers continue to address community concerns regarding the nuisance of prostitution. Vice Detectives conducted a "John Program" on September 21 in the area of Pacific Coast Highway and Daisy Avenue. Twenty-four arrests were made for prostitution-related offenses.

## **NEIGHBORHOODS**

### **Public Works, Airport**

On September 10, the Long Beach Airport Community Outreach team participated in the "Bixby After 5 Celebration" at 3960 Atlantic Avenue. About 300 residents enjoyed the showing of the movie *Men in Black*. The event was community collaboration among the Bixby Knolls Business Improvement Association, neighborhood business owners and residents.

**NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)**

**Parks Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau**

The Skylinks Golf Course renovation project is set to open on the revised date, October 29. The Skylinks Golf Course "Hard Hat" Preview Party, hosted by American Golf, takes place today on the driving range. About a hundred guests will have the opportunity to get an on-site update from Cal Olson, the course architect. Rides in a tethered hot air balloon will give them a bird's eye view of the new course layout.

**Parks Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau**

At MacArthur Park, the accessibility improvements are 80% complete. The design for the Homeland Cultural Arts Theater and gallery building is nearly complete and has been submitted for a Building Permit review.

At Whaley Park, accessibility improvement construction continues at the community center, with work at the playground beginning next week.

Construction at Officer Daryle W. Black Memorial Park continued with the installation of the sidewalks, the electrical wiring and the placement of the boulder on which the dedication will be mounted.

**Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau**

Long Beach residents attended the Neighborhood Resource Center's annual Fall Potluck Mixer on September 9. Neighborhood Services Bureau staff provided a presentation on programs and services including the Neighborhood Leadership Program, Mother's Brigade, Facade Improvement, Home Improvement Rebate, Property Maintenance, and Make a Difference Day.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Community Development, Economic Development Bureau**

The Economic Development Bureau has published the first quarterly Business Development Center Newsletter. The newsletter provides information on programs and services offered at the Business Development Center, as well as citywide resources and important tips to help businesses be successful in Long Beach.

Economic Development Bureau participated at the Los Angeles Black Business Expo on September 10-12. Staff provided information on the City's business development programs and business attraction incentives.

The City of Long Beach in conjunction with LARTA, a regional think tank for technology businesses, hosted its first annual Global Technology Conference at the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center on September 9. The Conference drew over 350 high-tech industry professionals, investors and other local business firms.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (continued)**

#### **Community Development Department, Neighborhood Services Bureau**

On September 13, 12 Cambodian business owners attended a workshop at the Anaheim Street Community Police Center to learn more about filing business taxes. This event represents an ongoing commitment to assist our diverse businesses.

#### **Community Development Department, Workforce Development Bureau**

More than 1,300 youth visited the Youth Opportunity Center during the month of August. Youth were provided job referrals; volunteer opportunities; work-readiness training; referrals to community-based resources; access to computers, fax machines, telephones, and photocopiers; and various other partner services.

#### **Community Development Department, Workforce Development Bureau**

The Career Transition Center logged more than 8,000 visits during the month of August. Job and education seekers accessed the complement of services tailored to adults and dislocated workers.

More than 200 youth completed the Summer Jobs Program prior to returning to school last week. For most, this summer's job was their first job and it included academic instruction in reading and math, work readiness training, and work experience at a host of public and non-profit employers. The program included sidewalk construction worksites in the community in partnership with the Neighborhood Services Bureau and Department of Public Works.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

#### **Health and Human Services**

A Long Beach Hospital Roundtable meeting, an opportunity for local health agencies, including representatives from all Long Beach area hospitals, to share ideas on community health issues was held on September 17. Staff presented information on West Nile Virus and Bioterrorism Preparedness. Additionally, Los Angeles County Emergency Management Services discussed the impact of emergency department and hospital closures on health access in LA County.

#### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Business Operations Bureau**

Staff coordinated Department information tables at over 20 Long Beach Unified School District elementary schools at the annual Back to School Night event on Wednesday, September 22. Staff distributed information about Parks, Recreation and Marine programs and classes for youth, teens, and families

#### **Fire**

On September 18, the Long Beach Search and Rescue program conducted its annual Open House at the Fire Department's Training Center. This event provided members an opportunity to showcase the training they have received over the past year. Some of the demonstrations included fire suppression of a car fire, rappelling and vehicle extrication. Also, several adult members of Search and Rescue received service pins for their years of participation.

### **Fire**

The Long Beach Fire Department conducted graduation ceremonies on September 18 for the newest members of the Long Beach CERT program. These 20 individuals successfully completed a six-week training program covering such topics as disaster preparedness, fire safety, medical operations, search and rescue, disaster psychology and terrorism. This year CERT has trained over 100 members of the Long Beach community and the Fire Department applauds their dedication to the program and to the city.

### **Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau**

The Central American Day Festival, with an estimated attendance of 2,000, was held on September 19 at the Queen Mary Special Events Park.

The 9th Annual Brazilian Street Carnival, with an estimated attendance of 2,000, was held on September 19 at the Downtown Promenade.

Jazz by the Bay, with an estimated attendance of 2,000, was held on September 23 at the Queen Mary Sea Walk.

### **Police**

A fund-raiser for the Police Athletic League was held at the grand opening of Ruby's Diner, 6405 E. Pacific Coast Highway. Over \$1,300 was raised to benefit PAL programs.

### **Health and Human Services**

Staff attended the 2nd Annual Long Beach Community Forum on Mental Illness on September 21 at Community Hospital of Long Beach. The forum, presented by the Long Beach Community Mental Health Coalition, focused on proposition 63, the mental health initiative, and mental health needs in the community.

### **OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE**

#### **Public Works Department, Engineering Bureau**

In preparation for the upcoming storm season, the Engineering Department is entering into contracts to have the city's open channels cleared of debris. It is anticipated that the channels will be cleared by the end of October. In addition, catch basin inserts and debris nets have been installed at various pump stations.

Fiscal Year 2004 (FY04) scheduled sidewalk repairs are near completion. Citywide a total of 15,270 locations have been repaired since October 1, 2003. FY05 work should begin in November.

All work under the FY04 alley repair program has been designed and scheduled for construction. Paving will be completed in the near future.

**OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE**

**Public Works Department, Engineering Bureau**

The undergrounding of utilities on Spring Street between Long Beach Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue is complete. Construction of the median-island and final paving of Spring Street can now proceed. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by the end of the year.

Southern California Edison (SCE) continues to make progress on the undergrounding of utilities on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, between Park Street and Long Beach Boulevard. The initial conduit installation is nearing completion. The next step will be to convert all existing customers in this area to underground service, after which the poles and overhead wires can be removed. SCE estimates this will take another 18 months.

**Public Works Projects Under Design:**

Clark Avenue, between Spring Street & Wardlow Road  
7<sup>th</sup> Street, between Junipero Avenue & Redondo Avenue  
Magnolia Avenue, between Ocean Boulevard & 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Spring Street, between Temple Avenue and Lakewood Boulevard  
Walnut Avenue, between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Pacific Coast Highway  
Redondo Avenue, between Ocean Boulevard and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Long Beach Boulevard, between Ellis Street and Artesia Boulevard  
Anaheim Street, between Alamos Avenue and Ximeno Avenue  
Lakewood Boulevard, between Outer Traffic Circle and Willow Street  
Stearns Street, between Clark Avenue & Bellflower Boulevard  
FY04 Citywide Local Street Program  
Storm Drain Master Plan  
Dock 9 Improvements  
Alamos Bay Aqualink Improvements  
Belmont Pier Aqualink Improvements  
Martin Luther King ADA Improvements

**Public Works Construction Contracts to be Awarded**

Marine Stadium East Launch Ramp  
Davies Launch Ramp  
Downtown Bikeway Connection  
2<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge Painting Project  
Cherry Avenue, between North City Limit and Harding Street  
Cherry Avenue, between Spring Street and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street; between Wardlow and Bixby

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**Public Works Projects Under Construction**

Naples Seawall Improvements

Catalina Landing Parking Lot

Belmont Shore Bike Path Realignment

Pollution Trap Devices at Pump Stations

Long Beach Airport Runway 12-30 and Associated Improvements

FY04 Scheduled Citywide Sidewalk Improvements

FY04 Scheduled Citywide Alley Improvement Program

Spring Street, between Long Beach Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue

7<sup>th</sup> Street, between Pacific Avenue and Long Beach Avenue

Easy Avenue, between Spring Street and 34<sup>th</sup> Street

Clark Avenue, between Atherton Street and Eagle Street

**Other Public Works activities in the prior month:**

- 7 subdivisions processed
- 15 plan checks completed
- 157 responses to drainage concerns
- 976 sidewalk patches completed
- 2,008 potholes filled
- 1,872 trees trimmed

**Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau**

Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 2,622 service calls. This total included 966 Gas and Water Utility Turn On orders, and 812 Turn Off orders. There were 647 Customer Service Orders for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 197 meter maintenance and billing related orders were completed. Of the total number of service calls received, 77 customer emergency orders were completed during this period.

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